

U.S.S.N. 09/378,261
Filed: August 20, 1999
AMENDMENT

24. (amended) [The] A method [of claim 16] for enhancing an inflammatory response involving blocking of protein C or activated protein C binding to an endothelial cell protein C/activated protein C receptor comprising administering to a patient in need of treatment thereof an amount of [wherein the compound is an] antibody or antibody fragment immunoreactive with the receptor to block binding of protein C or activated protein C to the receptor by binding to the endothelial cell protein C/activated protein C receptor.

26. (amended) The method of claim [16] 24 wherein the compound is labeled.

Please cancel claim 27.

Remarks

The claimed invention is a method for enhancing an inflammatory response by blocking binding of protein C or activated protein C to its receptor. Claim 16 has been amended to delete the reference to nucleic acid sequences binding to or inhibiting receptor expression. Claim 27, specific to this species, has been cancelled. This should eliminate a ground for rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 first paragraph for not being enabled or satisfying the written description requirement.

Claim 24-26 were rejected as depending from a rejected claim. It is believed this was actually in error as to claim 26. However, claim 24 has now been rewritten in independent form, and both claims 25 and 26 depend therefrom, so all of claims 24-26 should now be allowed.

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It is believed that the amendment should be entered as it places the claims in better form for appeal, reduces issues for appeal, does not raise any new issues, and does not require further consideration or search.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

Marked Up Version of Amended Claims

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

16. (amended) A method for enhancing an inflammatory response involving blocking of protein C or activated protein C binding to an endothelial cell protein C/activated protein C receptor comprising administering to a patient in need of treatment thereof an amount of a compound blocking binding of protein C or activated protein C to the receptor by binding to the endothelial cell protein C/activated protein C receptor.

17. (amended) The method of claim 16 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of antibodies and fragments of antibodies to the receptor, [nucleic acid sequences inhibiting expression of the receptor,] and synthetic or natural compounds other than proteins, or peptides [or nucleic acid sequences] which inhibit binding.

24. (amended) [The] A method [of claim 16] for enhancing an inflammatory response involving blocking of protein C or activated protein C binding to an endothelial cell protein C/activated protein C receptor comprising administering to a patient in need of treatment thereof an amount of [wherein the compound is an] antibody or antibody fragment immunoreactive with the receptor to block binding of protein C or activated protein C to the receptor by binding to the endothelial cell protein C/activated protein C receptor.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the antibody is humanized.

26. (amended) The method of claim [16] 24 wherein the compound is labeled.

[27. The method of claim 16 wherein the compound is an oligonucleotide.]